

Application No.: 09/938,563
Amendment dated December 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated September 25, 2003

Docket No.: 8733.496.00-US

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The non-final Office Action dated September 25, 2003 has been received and its content carefully reviewed..

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application with claims 9-20 being withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,618,109, issued to Hidehira et al. ("Hidehira"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because Hidehira is not valid prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants have a priority date of August 29, 2000, based upon Korean Application No. 2000-50430, which antedates the July 27, 2001 U.S. filing date of Hidehira. Applicants file herewith a certified English translation of Korean Application No. 2000-50430 to perfect priority. As such, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

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If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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